

From: Allen Austin
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 10:07pm
Subject: microsoft settlement

Sir,

The attached letter best states my view on the recent events in the courts concerning the operating practices of Microsoft.

Allen Austin
5301 Plomondon Street, Apt. E20
Vancouver, WA 98661-8501

January 22, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I support the Microsoft antitrust settlement reached by your Department, nine states, and Microsoft with the help of a court-appointed mediator. I agree with the 32 states that decided that this suit should never have been brought in the first place. More than anything else, the suit seems driven by of envy and jealousy of Bill Gates, his success, his widely used innovations, his billions of dollars, and his millions of happy customers.

I am one of those happy customers. I have freely chosen Microsoft products because I really like the ease of use and increased functionality I have seen from using them. I use Microsoft Windows, Microsoft Internet Explorer, and Microsoft Works. With Works I have made templates for my repetitive tasks, and designed my own checkbook program, which, thanks to the Microsoft software, has perfect arithmetic.

The settlement will make easier for Microsoft's competitors to integrate their products into Windows, by giving them information about Windows interfaces and server protocols, and making it easier to add or delete the programs and features Microsoft includes in Windows, such as Internet Explorer -- which is my browser of choice. Everyone should have freedom -- freedom of choice and freedom to innovate.

Your support for the settlement is crucial. America will benefit from the resulting increased cooperation and innovation within the American computer industry. Thank you for your support. And as a member of the public, thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Allen Austin